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RUYNAA/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 7344  
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RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 7938  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 1015  
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USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;  
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PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - U.S. POLICY REGARDING  
CLIMATE CHANGE

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Most Friday morning papers led with the ruling on Thursday by the Nagoya High Court that the airlift by Japan's Air Self Defense Force of multinational troops to Baghdad is unconstitutional.

¶2. "President Bush Does Not Understand Global Trend" The liberal Asahi editorialized (4/18): "The contents of the announcement made by President Bush were hard to believe.... The President said that the U.S. will curb the growth of greenhouse gas emissions by 2025. To rephrase this, the U.S. is apparently declaring that emissions will inevitably grow for the next 17 years. The U.S., which withdrew from the Kyoto Protocol, has failed to set any goal for emissions cuts. Washington might like to stress that this pledge represents a major change. However, the international community has already put forward a benchmark for curbing the growth of emissions.... It is hard to believe that the President ignored this global trend.... The Bush administration took part in forming a consensus at the G-8 summit last year to seriously study halving worldwide emissions by 2050. It also decided to participate in the discussion under the UN to create a post-Kyoto framework. This latest announcement makes us wonder if the Bush administration was serious."

SCHIEFFER